

REMARKS

The Applicants are filing this Amendment and Response in response to an Office Communication dated September 21, 2010. At the time of the Office Communication, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences affirmed the rejections against independent claim 9 and dependent claims 10-12, but reversed all rejections against claims 13-16 dependent thereon. The independent claim 9 was canceled by the Examiner in accordance with MPEP 1214.06. By way of this response, the Applicants have chosen to place the application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Applicants have canceled claims 9-16, and added new claims 19-25. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. New independent claim 19 contains material from original independent claim 9 and material indicated as allowable by the Board from claim 14, which originally depended from claim 9. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-8, and 17-25 remain pending. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner wishes to discuss any issue regarding the present

application by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 20, 2010

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